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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/014,146	11/28/2001	Charles G. Kappell III	2001P18437US	6639

7590 10/20/2005

Siemens Corporation
Attn: Elsa Keller, Legal Administrator
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EXAMINER	
WOO, ISAAC M	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2166	

DATE MAILED: 10/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/014,146	KAPPELL ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Isaac M. Woo	2166	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *30 August 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-17* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-17* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on August 30, 2005 has been entered.

2. Claims 1,4, 7,11 and 15 are amended. Claims 1-17 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

> Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

4. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

As set forth in MPEP 2106 (II) (A):

A. Identify and Understand Any Practical Application Asserted for the Invention

The claimed invention as a whole must accomplish a practical

application. That is, it must produce a "useful, concrete and tangible result." State Street, 149 F.3d at 1373, 47 USPQ2d at 1601-02. The purpose of this requirement is to limit patent protection to inventions that possess a certain level of "real world" value, as opposed to subject matter that represents nothing more than an idea or concept, or is simply a starting point for future investigation or research (Brenner v. Manson, 383 U.S. 519, 528-36, 148 USPQ 689, 693-96); In re Ziegler, 992, F.2d 1197, 1200-03, 26 USPQ2d 1600,1603-06 (Fed. Cir. 1993)). Accordingly, a complete disclosure should contain some indication of the practical application for the claimed invention, i.e., why the applicant believes the claimed invention is useful.

Apart from the utility requirement of 35 U.S.C. 101, usefulness under the patent eligibility standard requires significant functionality to be present to satisfy the useful result aspect of the practical application requirement. See Arrhythmia, 958 F.2d at 1057, 22 USPQ2d at 1036. Merely claiming nonfunctional descriptive material stored in a computer-readable medium does not make the invention eligible for patenting. For example, a claim directed to a word processing file stored on a disk may satisfy the utility requirement of 35 U.S.C. 101 since the information stored may have some "real world" value. However, the mere fact that the claim may satisfy the utility requirement of 35 U.S.C. 101 does not mean that a useful result is achieved under the practical application requirement. The claimed invention as a whole must produce a "useful, concrete and tangible" result to have a practical application.

Regarding claims 1 and 7, a telecommunications includes *no physical structure of the machine in terms of its hardware or hardware and software combination.* Because

the limitation of claim 7, query engine and graphical user interface are computer program software system that are not embedded any a computer-readable medium and run by any a computer or machine. Therefore, the claims are not a statutory system and should be rejected under 35 U.S. C. § 101 as not being tangible.

Regarding claims 4, 11 and 15, method, can be implemented without computer or machine. Because the limitations of claims 4, 11 and 15 can be implemented by a human with a pencil, and a piece of paper for tracking a configuration of an asset. Thus, the languages of claims 4,11 and 15 raise a question as to whether the claimed method is directed merely to an abstract idea that is not tied to a producing a concrete, useful, and tangible result to from the basis of statutory subject matter under 35 U.S. C. § 101. Therefore, the claimed invention is non-statutory subject matter. The claims should be amended to indicate that the subject matter is implemented by a computer, i.e., a computer implemented method.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Banning et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,721,901, hereinafter, "Banning") in view of Lowe et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,539,082, hereinafter, "Lowe").

With respect to claim 1, Banning discloses, graphical user interface (fig. 2, col. 6, lines 4-26) coupled to provide one or more tables (210, 230, fig. 2, col. 6, lines 4-26) of user selectable query parameters (for instance, SALARY, 210, fig. 2) for accessing call information from the call information database in a text form (after selection parameters form 210, fig, 2, query database with OK button), the query parameters defining aliases of search criteria (210, for instance, SALARY is aliases to selection query criteria); and wherein the query engine is adapted to translate the query parameters into a database-readable form, see (col. 1, lines 29-57, col. 3, lines 57-67 to col. 4, lines 1-41, the query by user via visual GUI (fig.2) is translated to SQL from). Banning does not explicitly discloses, call information database for storing call information, query engine operably coupled to the call information database. However, Lowe discloses, "Associated with each SSP (9) is a switch side processor (25) that contains a local call record database (CRDB) (27) and is connected via a C7 link (29) to the SCP (15), the C7 protocol being part of the International standard SS7 signalling protocol. Connected to each of the switch side processors (25) is a central database server (31), in which is provided a central database (CDB) (33) for storing information from all the local call records databases (27). Connected to the central database server (31) is an intelligent interface in an operator terminal (35) to enable an operator to obtain billing information from the

central database (33)", see (33, central database, fig. 4, stores call information, col. 4, lines 43-54, col. 5, lines 6-36). And Lowe discloses, "In order to enable an operator to gain access to the information in the central database server (31), instructions are entered at the operator terminal (35) and then interpreted by an interface agent in the intelligent interface. The interface agent then constructs a query for the central database (33). When such a query is generated, the interface agent sends out a search mobile agent (SMA) (41) that can move between the operator interface (35) and the central database server (31) and search the central database (33) for billing information for the customer in question", see (col.5, lines 22-36). This teaches that interface provides query on call information database. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Banning by incorporating call information database for storing call information, query engine operably coupled to the call information database with the system of Lowe. Thus, one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to use such a modification because that would provide Lowe's system the enhanced capability of retrieving call information in database management system.

With respect to claim 2, Banning discloses, database-readable form comprising a Structured Query Language (SQL) form, see (col. 1, lines 29-57, col. 3, lines 57-67 to col. 4, lines 1-41).

With respect to claim 3, Banning discloses, results of a query are provided to the graphical user interface in a text-readable form, see (col. 3, lines 57-67 to col. 4, lines 1-41).

With respect to claim 4, Banning discloses, the query parameters defining aliases of search criteria (210, for instance, SALARY is aliases to selection query criteria), the inputting including selecting from one or more tables of query parameters (for instance, SALARY, 210, fig. 2); translating the database text query information into a database-readable form, see (col. 1, lines 29-57, col. 3, lines 57-67 to col. 4, lines 1-41, the query by user via visual GUI (fig.2) is translated to SQL from); returning result of the database-readable query to the graphical user interface for display (disclosed system of Banning is data retrieval using GUI input system). Banning does not explicitly discloses, inputting call center database text query information from a call information database into graphical user interface. However, Lowe discloses, "Associated with each SSP (9) is a switch side processor (25) that contains a local call record database (CRDB) (27) and is connected via a C7 link (29) to the SCP (15), the C7 protocol being part of the International standard SS7 signalling protocol. Connected to each of the switch side processors (25) is a central database server (31), in which is provided a central database (CDB) (33) for storing information from all the local call records databases (27). Connected to the central database server (31) is an intelligent interface in an operator terminal (35) to enable an operator to obtain billing information from the central database (33)", see (33, central database, fig. 4, stores call information, col. 4, lines 43-

54, col. 5, lines 6-36). And Lowe discloses, "In order to enable an operator to gain access to the information in the central database server (31), instructions are entered at the operator terminal (35) and then interpreted by an interface agent in the intelligent interface. The interface agent then constructs a query for the central database (33). When such a query is generated, the interface agent sends out a search mobile agent (SMA) (41) that can move between the operator interface (35) and the central database server (31) and search the central database (33) for billing information for the customer in question", see (col.5, lines 22-36). This teaches that interface provides inputting query on call information database. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Banning by incorporating inputting call center database text query information from a call information database into graphical user interface with the system of Lowe. Thus, one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to use such a modification because that would provide Lowe's system the enhanced capability of retrieving call information in database management system.

With respect to claim 5, Banning discloses, database-readable form comprising a Structured Query Language (SQL) form, see (col. 1, lines 29-57, col. 3, lines 57-67 to col. 4, lines 1-41).

With respect to claim 6, Banning discloses, selecting one or more fields to view from a first graphical user interface window; selecting predetermined criteria to apply to

the fields using a second graphical and user interface window, see (210, fig. 2, for instance, SALARY is aliases to selection query criteria).

With respect to claim 7, Banning discloses, graphical user interface (fig. 2, col. 6, lines 4-26) coupled to provide one or more tables (210, 230, fig. 2, col. 6, lines 4-26) of user selectable query parameters (for instance, SALARY, 210, fig. 2) for accessing call information from the call information database in a text form (after selection parameters form 210, fig, 2, query database with OK button), the query parameters defining aliases of search criteria (210, for instance, SALARY is aliases to selection query criteria); and wherein the query engine is adapted to translate the query parameters into a database-readable form, see (col. 1, lines 29-57, col. 3, lines 57-67 to col. 4, lines 1-41, the query by user via visual GUI (fig.2) is translated to SQL from). Banning does not explicitly discloses, call information database for storing call information, query engine operably coupled to the call information database. However, Lowe discloses, "Associated with each SSP (9) is a switch side processor (25) that contains a local call record database (CRDB) (27) and is connected via a C7 link (29) to the SCP (15), the C7 protocol being part of the International standard SS7 signalling protocol. Connected to each of the switch side processors (25) is a central database server (31), in which is provided a central database (CDB) (33) for storing information from all the local call records databases (27). Connected to the central database server (31) is an intelligent interface in an operator terminal (35) to enable an operator to obtain billing information from the central database (33)", see (33, central database, fig. 4, stores call information, col. 4,

lines 43-54, col. 5, lines 6-36). And Lowe discloses, "In order to enable an operator to gain access to the information in the central database server (31), instructions are entered at the operator terminal (35) and then interpreted by an interface agent in the intelligent interface. The interface agent then constructs a query for the central database (33). When such a query is generated, the interface agent sends out a search mobile agent (SMA) (41) that can move between the operator interface (35) and the central database server (31) and search the central database (33) for billing information for the customer in question", see (col.5, lines 22-36). This teaches that interface provides query on call information database. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Banning by incorporating call information database for storing call information, query engine operably coupled to the call information database with the system of Lowe. Thus, one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to use such a modification because that would provide Lowe's system the enhanced capability of retrieving call information in database management system.

With respect to claim 8, Banning discloses, database-readable form comprising a Structured Query Language (SQL) form, see (col. 1, lines 29-57; col. 3, lines 57-67 to col. 4, lines 1-41).

With respect to claim 9, Banning discloses, results of a query are provided to the graphical user interface in a text-readable form, see (col. 3, lines 57-67 to col. 4, lines 1-41).

With respect to claim 10, Banning discloses, first screen for selecting fields for searching; second screen for entering search criteria for the fields, and third screen for displaying results of the searching, see (col. 6, lines 4-26).

With respect to claim 11, Banning discloses, graphical user interface (fig. 2, col. 6, lines 4-26) coupled to provide one or more tables (210, 230, fig. 2, col. 6, lines 4-26) of user selectable query parameters (for instance, SALARY, 210, fig. 2) for accessing call information from the call information database in a text form (after selection parameters form 210, fig, 2, query database with OK button), the query parameters defining aliases of search criteria (210, for instance, SALARY is aliases to selection query criteria); and wherein the query engine is adapted to translate the query parameters into a database-readable form, see (col. 1, lines 29-57, col. 3, lines 57-67 to col. 4, lines 1-41, the query by user via visual GUI (fig.2) is translated to SQL from). Banning does not explicitly discloses, call information database for storing call information, query engine operably coupled to the call information database. However, Lowe discloses, "Associated with each SSP (9) is a switch side processor (25) that contains a local call record database (CRDB) (27) and is connected via a C7 link (29) to the SCP (15), the C7 protocol being part of the International standard SS7 signalling

protocol. Connected to each of the switch side processors (25) is a central database server (31), in which is provided a central database (CDB) (33) for storing information from all the local call records databases (27). Connected to the central database server (31) is an intelligent interface in an operator terminal (35) to enable an operator to obtain billing information from the central database (33)", see (33, central database, fig. 4, stores call information, col. 4, lines 43-54, col. 5, lines 6-36). And Lowe discloses, "In order to enable an operator to gain access to the information in the central database server (31), instructions are entered at the operator terminal (35) and then interpreted by an interface agent in the intelligent interface. The interface agent then constructs a query for the central database (33). When such a query is generated, the interface agent sends out a search mobile agent (SMA) (41) that can move between the operator interface (35) and the central database server (31) and search the central database (33) for billing information for the customer in question", see (col.5, lines 22-36). This teaches that interface provides query on call information database. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Banning by incorporating call information database for storing call information, query engine operably coupled to the call information database with the system of Lowe. Thus, one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to use such a modification because that would provide Lowe's system the enhanced capability of retrieving call information in database management system.

With respect to claim 12, Banning discloses, database-readable form comprising a Structured Query Language (SQL) form, see (col. 1, lines 29-57, col. 3, lines 57-67 to col. 4, lines 1-41).

With respect to claim 13, Banning discloses, results of a query are provided to the graphical user interface in a text-readable form, see (col. 3, lines 57-67 to col. 4, lines 1-41).

With respect to claim 14, Banning discloses, first screen for selecting fields for searching; second screen for entering search criteria for the fields, and third screen for displaying results of the searching, see (col. 6, lines 4-26).

With respect to claim 15, Banning discloses, graphical user interface (fig. 2, col. 6, lines 4-26) coupled to provide one or more tables (210, 230, fig. 2, col. 6, lines 4-26) of user selectable query parameters (for instance, SALARY, 210, fig. 2) for accessing call information from the call information database in a text form (after selection parameters form 210, fig, 2, query database with OK button), the query parameters defining aliases of search criteria (210, for instance, SALARY is aliases to selection query criteria); and wherein the query engine is adapted to translate the query parameters into a database-readable form, see (col. 1, lines 29-57, col. 3, lines 57-67 to col. 4, lines 1-41, the query by user via visual GUI (fig.2) is translated to SQL from). Banning does not explicitly discloses, call information database for storing call

information, query engine operably coupled to the call information database. However, Lowe discloses, "Associated with each SSP (9) is a switch side processor (25) that contains a local call record database (CRDB) (27) and is connected via a C7 link (29) to the SCP (15), the C7 protocol being part of the International standard SS7 signalling protocol. Connected to each of the switch side processors (25) is a central database server (31), in which is provided a central database (CDB) (33) for storing information from all the local call records databases (27). Connected to the central database server (31) is an intelligent interface in an operator terminal (35) to enable an operator to obtain billing information from the central database (33)", see (33, central database, fig. 4, stores call information, col. 4, lines 43-54, col. 5, lines 6-36). And Lowe discloses, "In order to enable an operator to gain access to the information in the central database server (31), instructions are entered at the operator terminal (35) and then interpreted by an interface agent in the intelligent interface. The interface agent then constructs a query for the central database (33). When such a query is generated, the interface agent sends out a search mobile agent (SMA) (41) that can move between the operator interface (35) and the central database server (31) and search the central database (33) for billing information for the customer in question", see (col.5, lines 22-36). This teaches that interface provides query on call information database. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Banning by incorporating call information database for storing call information, query engine operably coupled to the call information database with the system of Lowe. Thus, one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

made would have been motivated to use such a modification because that would provide Lowe's system the enhanced capability of retrieving call information in database management system.

With respect to claim 16, Banning discloses, database-readable form comprising a Structured Query Language (SQL) form, see (col. 1, lines 29-57, col. 3, lines 57-67 to col. 4, lines 1-41).

With respect to claim 17, Banning discloses, results of a query are provided to the graphical user interface in a text-readable form, see (col. 3, lines 57-67 to col. 4, lines 1-41).

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Isaac M. Woo whose telephone number is (571) 272-4043. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain T. Alam can be reached on (571) 272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

IMW
October 14, 2005

JEAN M. CORRIELUS
PRIMARY EXAMINER